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### LS 495.01: Twentieth-Century Lesbian and Gay Fiction

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Spring 2002

## Twentieth-Century Lesbian and Gay Fiction

LS 495 ENLT 495 WS 494

Dr. Ruth Vanita

TR 9.40-11 a.m., LA138

Office: LA 146A Tel. 243-4894 Email: rvanita@selway.umt.edu

Office Hours : TR 2-3 p.m., and by appointment.

### Texts

1. E. M. Forster, Maurice (1914; Norton, 1993)
2. Radclyffe Hall, The Well of Loneliness (1928; Anchor Books, 1990)
3. Marguerite Yourcenar, Fires (1936; U of Chicago Press, 1994)
4. Claire Morgan, The Price of Salt (Naiad Press revised edition, 1991)
5. Christopher Isherwood, A Single Man (1964; U of Minnesota Press, 2001)
6. Mary Renault, The Persian Boy (1972; Vintage Books, 1988)
7. Audre Lorde, Zami (1982; Crossing Press, 2001)
8. Shyam Selvadurai, Funny Boy (1994; Harvest Books, 1997)
9. Facpac, available from Denny's Copy Stop, 2330 South Higgins (Corner of South and Higgins).

### Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than one unexplained absence will affect your grade. Acceptable explanations are illness (backed up by a medical certificate) and emergencies such as major sickness in the family or serious weather conditions.
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, participate in class discussions and complete in-class assignments. This course entails considerable amounts of reading. In-class assignments will be quizzes designed to test whether or not you have completed the reading. If you feel unable to do the reading, please do not take this class.
- (c) make a five to ten-minute class presentation on one or two texts, raising questions for discussion. The presentation may become the basis for one of the papers;
- (d) write a short paper on any one text (4-5 pages double-spaced typed);
- (e) write a long paper (8-10 pages double-spaced typed).
- (f) hand in titles and abstracts of both papers, in advance, and discuss the abstracts with me during office hours. The abstract must state your thesis and summarize your argument.
- (g) Topics for presentations and papers must be decided in individual consultation with me. Presentations must not be summaries of the texts. They must raise questions for discussion.

(h) Graduate students must write longer papers – 8-10 and 12-15 pages respectively, and must demonstrate more background reading.

### Grades

The short paper will be worth 25%, the long paper 25%, class attendance and participation 20%, in-class assignments 20% and the presentation 10%. Handing in papers late without an explanation satisfactory to me will result in a diminished grade.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

### Reading Schedule

**This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes.**

Page numbers refer to the editions listed in this syllabus (see page 1) and sold in the UC bookstore. It is recommended that you use these editions. If, however, you use other editions, you will have to ensure that you read the correct pages.

January 29 Introduction

January 31 Maurice, Parts 1 and 2 (pages 9-130).

February 5 Maurice, Parts 3 and 4.

February 7 Extract from Marcel Proust, Remembrance of Things Past (facpac).

February 12 The Well of Loneliness, pages 11-205.

February 14 The Well of Loneliness, pages 209-313.

February 19 The Well of Loneliness, pages 313-end.

February 21 Virginia Woolf, "Moments of Being" (facpac)

February 26 Fires, pages 3-45. Title of short paper due, in class.

February 28 Fires, pages 47-end.

March 5 A Single Man, pages 9-104. Abstract of short paper due, in class.

March 7 A Single Man, pages 105-end. Discuss abstract with me, during my office hours.

March 12 Martha Nussbaum, "Steerforth's Arm" (facpac).

March 14 No class. Instead, a movie, Maurice, will be shown in the evening. Papers must be handed in to me at the screening.

March 18-22 Spring Break.

March 26 The Persian Boy, pages 3-193.

March 28 The Persian Boy, pages 193-289.

April 2 The Persian Boy, pages 290-411.

April 4 The Price of Salt.

April 9 The Price of Salt.

April 11 Zami, chapters 1-14.

April 16 Zami, chapters 15-end.

April 18 The Conversations of Cow, pages 13-76.

April 23 The Conversations of Cow, pages 79-end, and extracts from The Golden Gate (facpac). Title of paper due, in class.

April 25 "Artha" (facpac). Abstract of paper due, in class.

April 30 Funny Boy, Parts 1 and 2 ("Pigs Don't fly" and "Radha Aunty"). Discuss abstract with me, during my office hours.

May 2 Funny Boy, Parts III and IV ("See No Evil, Hear No Evil" and "Small Choices").

May 7 Funny Boy, Part V and Epilogue.

May 9 Conclusion. Paper due, in class.